

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2002

SENATE BILL

No. 1629

Introduced by Senator Soto

February 21, 2002

~~An act to add Section 8589.75 to the Government Code, relating to
An act to add Section 1797.8 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to
emergency services.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1629, as amended, Soto. Emergency services: training.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to adopt standards for a statewide scope of practice to be used for the training and certification testing of Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) personnel.

This bill would require, to the extent permitted by federal law and upon appropriation, the Director of Finance to transfer to the State Department of Health Services any moneys in the Federal Trust Fund if the money is made available by the United States for expenditure by the state for the allocation of grants to state and local agencies to defray the cost of providing paramedic training for fire service personnel. This bill would also provide for the allocation of funds to the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program to offset various costs, including, paramedic training course development and instructional training expenses.

~~The Natural Disaster Assistance Act authorizes the Director of the Office of Emergency Services to allocate funds appropriated for the~~

~~purposes of the act for various local agency and state costs in connection with a disaster, as defined.~~

~~This bill would require the office to provide funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, in the form of grants to political subdivisions to be used for training that will upgrade the skill levels of firefighters and emergency service workers. The bill would provide that the grants may be used for tuition, stipends, and other training expenses.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1.— Section 8589.75 is added to the Government~~
2 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
3 ~~following:~~
4 ~~(a) In California it costs approximately \$40,000 to cross-train~~
5 ~~a firefighter as a paramedic. This cost reflects expenses incurred~~
6 ~~for, among other things, instructional supplies, teaching staff,~~
7 ~~equipment, and trainee compensation.~~
8 ~~(b) It is cost effective for state and local agencies to integrate~~
9 ~~their paramedic training course needs into single multiagency~~
10 ~~courses.~~
11 ~~(c) The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program,~~
12 ~~a quasi-governmental agency jointly sponsored by the California~~
13 ~~State Fire Marshal and the California Professional Firefighters,~~
14 ~~is a voluntary fire service apprenticeship training program whose~~
15 ~~broad network represents employers of approximately 90 percent~~
16 ~~of professional firefighters statewide.~~
17 ~~(d) The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program~~
18 ~~is an equal balance partnership benefitting California fire~~
19 ~~departments, firefighters, and the communities served by the~~
20 ~~program.~~
21 ~~SEC. 2. Section 1797.8 is added to the Health and Safety~~
22 ~~Code, to read:~~
23 ~~1797.8. (a) To the extent permitted by federal law and upon~~
24 ~~appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute, the~~
25 ~~Director of Finance may transfer any moneys in the Federal Trust~~
26 ~~Fund established pursuant to Section 16360 of the Government~~
27 ~~Code to the State Department of Health Services if the money is~~



1 *made available by the United States for expenditure by the state for*
2 *purposes consistent with the implementation of this section.*

3 *(b) Moneys appropriated pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be*
4 *allocated by the department as follows:*

5 *(1) The department shall allocate funds, in the form of grants,*
6 *to eligible state and local agencies to defray the cost of providing*
7 *paramedic training for fire service personnel, including, but not*
8 *limited to, instructional supplies and trainee compensation*
9 *expenses.*

10 *(2) The department shall allocate funds to the California Fire*
11 *Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program to offset the cost of*
12 *paramedic training course development, instructional training*
13 *expenses, and compliance with the requirements of subdivision (a)*
14 *of Section 1797.172 for fires services personnel of any state or*
15 *local agency that is in receipt of a grant under this section.*

16 *(c) In order to be eligible for a grant under subdivision (b), a*
17 *state or local agency shall satisfy both of the following conditions:*

18 *(1) Demonstrate a need for additional paramedics based on an*
19 *inability to meet the emergency medical services performance*
20 *objectives specified in Chapter 4 of the 2001 Edition of the*
21 *National Fire Protection Association, pamphlet 1710.*

22 *(2) Participate in the California Fire Fighter Joint*
23 *Apprenticeship Program for the development of, and to provide*
24 *paramedic training for, its fire fighter personnel.*

25 *(d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall*
26 *apply:*

27 *(1) "Fire service personnel" includes, but is not limited to, a*
28 *firefighter or prehospital emergency medical worker employed by*
29 *a state or local agency.*

30 *(2) "Local agency" means any city, county, city and county, fire*
31 *district, special district, joint powers agency, or any other political*
32 *subdivision of the state that provides fire protection services.*

33 *(3) "State agency" means any state agency that provides*
34 *residential or institutional fire protection, including, but not*
35 *limited to, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.*

36 ~~Code, to read:~~

37 ~~8589.75. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide~~
38 ~~funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, in the form of~~
39 ~~grants to political subdivisions to be used for training that will~~
40 ~~upgrade the skill levels of firefighters and emergency service~~



1 ~~workers. The grants may be used for tuition, stipends, and other~~
2 ~~training expenses.~~

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